

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL COMMISSION ON ORAL HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Via Microsoft Teams

11:30 PM

General (Open Session) Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Brittany Brown, (Chair, Commissioner's Designee), Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Amina Khan, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Man Wai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Sam Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

Board Members Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley

Staff Present: Matthew Horan (Dental Director, DPH), Angela Verheyen (Office of Oral Health Program Lead, DPH)

I. Welcome

At 11:30 PM, Brittany Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 11:33 PM, Brittany Brown called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call vote to determine a quorum. Roll call as follows:

30 Present: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr., Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

11 Absent: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Hugh Silk, Jane Barrow, Man Wai Ng, Mary Foley, Michael Scialabba, Samantha Jordan

0 Recused: None

0 Abstained: None

Jane Barrow joined the meeting at 11:42 AM.

III. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown read the meeting agenda and asked the Special Commission on Oral Health (SCOH) members if they had any amendments; there were none.

ACTION

Motion by Brittany Brown to approve the agenda, seconded by Barbara Young, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

28 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brittany Brown, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Gina Terenzi, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Siobhian Sprott, Tracy Moore

11 Absent: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Hugh Silk, Man Wai Ng, Mary Foley, Michael Scialabba, Sam Jordan

0 Recused: None

2 Abstained: Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

Document: 11.19.2024 SCOH Meeting Presentation Final

Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson joined the meeting at 11:44

V. Approval of 9.19.24 Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown asked SCOH members to review the 9.19.2024 meeting minutes and if they had any amendments; there were none.

ACTION

Motion by Brittany Brown to approve the 9.19.2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Monopoli, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

28 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Ann Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Brittany Brown, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Gina Terenzi, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael

Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Puttige Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

11 Absent: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Emma Lawson, Erin Bonney, Grace Tiffany Hsieh Christianson, Hugh Silk, Man Wai Ng, Mary Foley, Michael Scialabba, Sam Jordan

0 Recused: None

2 Abstained: Barbara Young, Caitlin Sullivan

Document: 11.19.2024 SCOH Meeting Presentation_Final

VI. Review Steps for the Oral Health Assessment Development and Overview of Sub-Committees

DISCUSSION

Brittany Brown provided a recap of the plans for FY25. Today, members will be determining topics for the subcommittees, identify which subcommittee they'd like to participate in, and the SCOH will vote to implement those subcommittee and their members. Between SCOH meetings, subcommittees will meet from December through February and will begin to draft the plan for developing an oral health needs assessment for your subcommittee topic area. At our meeting in February, the subcommittees will present their plan to the SCOH for feedback and input, and then, based on the work of the subcommittees, the Office of Oral Health (OOH) will draft a plan for developing an oral health needs assessment share it with SCOH for more input and approval in the Spring. OOH will then update the plan further and bring it back to SCOH for final input and approval.

Matthew Horan presented the recommended process for developing the oral health needs assessment. Once complete, the needs assessment will be used by SCOH to develop recommendations. OOH is recommending SCOH use the ASTDD framework to drive the process for developing the needs assessment. As needed, the Office of Oral Health Advisory Committee will be engaged in any longer-term activities related to the recommendation developed by SCOH.

Manwai Ng joined at 12:01

Like SCOH meetings, subcommittee meetings are subject to open meeting law. OOH staff will be present at each subcommittee meeting and will support the scheduling and planning for these meetings.

Matthew Horan presented draft subcommittee topics areas, including prevention, workforce (including access to care), and integration.

Alexander Sheff requested that Medicaid coverage and potential cuts be added as a subtopic.

Helene Bednarsh referenced prevention and vulnerable populations and asked if that refers to people across the lifespan or people with co-morbidity conditions? Matthew Horan responded that the intention was to focus on all the subpopulations across the lifespan.

Helene Bednarsh also asked about collaborating with other subcommittees as different subcommittees might be discussing similar topics and requesting the same data. Matthew Horan stated that OOH will review the work of the subcommittees to identify any overlap.

Helene Bednarsh also inquired whether infection control (IF) was on the recommended list of topics. Matthew Horan stated it was not but could be added as a subtopic.

Michael Monopoli suggested including safety in general and asked if the ASTDD framework can be shared with SCOH members.

Brittany Brown highlighted that SCOH is voting on the subcommittee topics today and that the subtopics listed beneath each subcommittee topic are just examples and subtopics will be at the discretion of the subcommittee. Subtopics do not need to be finalized today.

Barbara Young asked what quorums are for the subcommittees. Brittany Brown responded that quorum is half of the subcommittee's membership plus 1.

Matthew Horan said that potential subcommittee members are on the upcoming slides and the draft membership was based on the survey that was sent out before the meeting.

Barbara Young asked if membership for the subcommittees is limited to the SCOH members or if outside consultants can join? Brittany Brown responded that membership is just for the SCOH members.

Myron Allukian Jr. asked if non-members could be invited as guests to provide information and Brittany Brown confirmed they could attend and provide information, but will not be able to vote..

Helene Bednarsh requested that provider burnout be added as a subtopic.

Alexander Sheff requested that coverage should appear somewhere before he feels comfortable voting on the subcommittee topics. Matthew Horan recommended the "Access" subcommittee be changed to "Access and Coverage".

Brittany Brown stated that we can move on to subcommittee membership if there are no more comments about subcommittee topics.

Matthew Horan reminded SCOHs members that draft subcommittee membership was developed based on the survey members completed. Chairs for each subcommittee were also recommended based on survey results. Membership as outlined on the slides is a draft and up for discussion.

Because of the large membership of the Workforce Subcommittee, Samantha Jordan asked if that subcommittee could be divided into two: Workforce and Access and Coverage. Half of the recommended members from the original Workforce subcommittee will be moved to the Access and Coverage subcommittee.

Alexander Sheff and Jane Barrow supported the Workforce Subcommittee being divided into two.

The four subcommittees will be Access and Coverage, Prevention, Integration, and Workforce.

Brittany Brown thanked the SCOH members who had completed the survey and volunteered as chairs as it helped OOH develop the recommended membership for each subcommittee. Brittany Brown stated that Angela Verheyen will help schedule subcommittee meetings and will reach out to each subcommittee's chair.

Helene Bednarsh brought up the potential for overlapping of topics and data for some of the subcommittees (for example vulnerable populations, medical/dental integration). Brittany Brown responded that an OOH staff person will be present at each subcommittee meeting and after the first meeting, we will assess overlap and identify how subcommittees can connect.

Brittany Brown stated that SCOH members will need a vote on the topics and membership of each subcommittee.

Brittany Brown motioned to create a subcommittee on Prevention, with Lisa LaSpina as chair and Myron Allukian Jr., Meredith Bailey, Grace Christianson, John Fisher, Merelyn Hong, Manwai Ng, Jennifer Magee, and Lisa Wrightington as members. Helene Bednarsh seconded the motion and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

35 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Anna Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Manwai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Samantha Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracie Moore

7 Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley, Michael Scialabba

Brittany Brown motioned to create a subcommittee on Workforce with Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed as chair and Hussam Batal, Alec Eidelman, Marcy Foreman, Catherine Hayes, Michelle Henshaw, Emma Lawson, Barbara Young, Nithya Ramesh, Catherine and Nwachukwu as members. Barbara Young seconded the motion and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Michael Scialabba joined at 12:25

36 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Anna Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Manwai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Samantha Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

6 Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley

Brittany Brown motioned to create a subcommittee on Access and Coverage with Michael Monopoli as chair and Tracye Moore, Michael Scialabba, Alex Sheff, Siobhian Sprott, Samantha Jordan, Gina Terenzi, Erin Bonney, and Caitlin Sullivan as members. John Fisher seconded the motion and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

35 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Anna Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Manwai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Samantha Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

7 Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Athanasios Zavras, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley

Brittany Brown motioned to create a subcommittee on Integration with Mary Foley as chair and Jane Barrow, Helene Bednarsh, Katie Jahreis, Robert Lewando, Anna Lubitz, Hugh Silk, Anthony Silva, Brian Swann, Athanasios Zavras, Amina Khan, and Diana Vascones as members. Helene Bednarsh seconded the motion and unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

35 Approve: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Anna Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Manwai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Samantha Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

7 Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley, Merelyn Hong

Brittany Brown stated our four subcommittees have been approved.

Matthew Horan shared information on the first deliverable each subcommittee would be working on - Deliverable 1: Plan for Developing an Oral Health Needs Assessment. Deliverable 1 will include information on the subcommittee topics, the subtopics selected, and data that will be needed to conduct the oral health needs assessment, as it related to each subtopic.

Deliverable 2, which will likely come in FY26, will include the findings from the oral health needs assessment and recommendations from SCOH.

Brittany Brown stated that more information about deliverable 1 will be sent out before the subcommittee meetings so it is clear what the subcommittees will be working on at these meetings.

Helene Bednarsh asked if the subcommittees should be following any guidelines related to citations and age of information/data or if the subcommittees should create their own parameters? Matt Horan responded that OOH staff would support subcommittees with this.

Lisa LaSpina asked if subcommittees would have access to a platform such as Teams to work together and compile information. Matt Horan stated that subcommittees are subject to Open Meeting Law (OML) so in order to avoid serial deliberations work will be completed during subcommittee meetings.

Barbara Young raised concerns that if two or members meet and discuss SCOH business it could be a violation of OML. Therefore, to avoid violating the terms of OML, it is discouraged to have any other meetings outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

Alexander Sheff stated that many SCOH members work together outside of SCOH, and subcommittees and he'd like to confirm if this would be a violation of OML, even if they didn't discussion SCOH business. Matthew Horan stated OOH would bring this question to our attorney for an internal review.

Helene Bednarsh asked if sharing documents, references, and citations was considered communication and a violation of OML? Barbara Young suggested that everything go through one person, for example the subcommittee chair, and that members are 'Bcc'd' on emails. Matthew Horan concurred and stated that we are trying to avoid serial deliberations.

Manwai Ng asked if there is an opportunity to weigh in on the work of the other subcommittee? Brittany Brown stated that the plan for the February meeting is for each subcommittee to present a draft of their work to SCOH for input and feedback on what to add and change.

Caitlyn Sullivan stated CHIA is a data hub and might have information for other subcommittees and asked how she can get this information out to the whole group? Brittany Brown responded that Caitlyn should contact OOH staff and together they can determine the best way to get this information to SCOH members. Matthew Horan responded that this request should be sent to the OOH email at oral.health@mass.gov.

Document: 11.19.2024 SCOH Meeting Presentation_Final

VIII. Adjourn

DISCUSSION

None.

ACTION

Brittany Brown motioned to adjourn the Special Commission on Oral Health meeting at 12:44 on November 19, 2024. Barbara Young seconded the motion and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

36 Approved: Alec Eidelman, Alexander Sheff, Anna Lubitz, Anthony Silva, Athanasios Zavras, Barbara Young, Brittany Brown, Caitlin Sullivan, Catherine Hayes, Catherine Nwachukwu, Diana Vascones, Emma Lawson, Gina Terenzi, Grace Christianson, Helene Bednarsh, Hussam Batal, Jane Barrow, Jennifer Magee, John Fisher, Katie Jahreis, Lisa LaSpina, Lisa Wrightington, Manwai Ng, Marcy Foreman, Meredith Bailey, Merelyn Hong, Michael Scialabba, Michael Monopoli, Michelle Henshaw, Myron Allukian Jr. Nithya Ramesh, Robert Lewando, Samantha Jordan, Siobhian Sprott, Tracye Moore

6 Not Present: Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Amina Khan, Brian Swann, Erin Bonney, Hugh Silk, Mary Foley

0 Recused:

0 Abstained:

Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.